

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 1, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire July 1, 2004.

Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended Claims 5 and 6 and canceled Claims 1-4 and 9-14. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the proposed amendments herein as Applicant believes that they place the application in condition for allowance. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Objections to the Claims

On page 2 of the present office action, the Examiner has objected to Claims 1, 5, 6 and 12. Claims 1 and 12 have been canceled in the present amendment. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to delete the phrase "adapted to be", and Claim 6 has been amended to add the word "in" as was recommended by the Examiner in the present office action.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

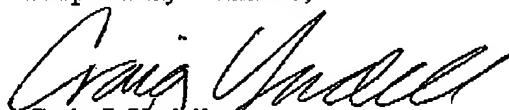
On page 2 of the present office action, Claims 1 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Ichiyama* (US Patent No. 6,549,633), and further, Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated over *Ichiyama* and view of *Ichiyama* (US Patent No. 6,456,458), and further, Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Neal* in view of *Ichiyama* '458. Those rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration of the claims is requested. In particular, each of Claims 1, 2, 4, 12, 13, and 14 have been canceled in the present application, therefore the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 are no longer applicable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 4 of the present office action that Claims 5, 6, 7, 8 and 15-16 are allowed or directed to allowable subject matter.

With respect to Claims 5 and 6, the Examiner has objected to them as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, Applicants note that in Supplemental Amendment B filed by Applicants on January 7, 2004 that Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to an independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Consequently, Applicants believe that all the remaining pending claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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